

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 16 and 18 are currently amended, and claims 19 and 20 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 3-14, 16, and 18-20 are pending, and claims 2, 15 and 17 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 3-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action states that claims 1 and 13 recite a radially inwardly *facing* spline and a radially outwardly *facing* spline. That is not true. Claims 1 and 13 recite a radially inwardly *extending* spline and a radially outwardly *extending* spline. Furthermore, paragraph [0038] of the specification expressly recites a plurality of radially inwardly extending splines (516) and a plurality of radially outwardly extending splines (518), and those splines are clearly shown and labeled in Fig. 6(A).

Claims 1, 3-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Militana (US 3,168,836). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Militana discloses a sprocket (20) comprising a core (22) and a wear rim (24). Core (22) includes a hub (26) with an opening (28) that fits on the end of a vehicle drive shaft. A plurality of spider arms (30) extend radially outwardly from hub (26), and a hoop (32) is disposed on the ends of spider arms (30). Wear rim (24) has an inner periphery (33) that is dimensioned to fit on the outer periphery of hoop (32) with a sliding fit so that wear rim (24) may be removed and replaced easily from core (22).

The office action interpreted the outer peripheral surface of hub (26) to be the radially outer surface of the radially inwardly extending spline recited in claim 1, wherein the radially outer surface faces the radially inner surface of the sprocket body. However, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the radially outer surface is discontinuous in the circumferential direction. The radially outer surface of hub (26) is not discontinuous in the circumferential direction, so Militana neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 1.

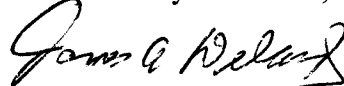
As for claim 13, the office action stated that Militana's radially inwardly extending spline has a root portion (30, 32). If so, then Militana's radially inwardly extending spline does not *originate* from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline. Instead, Militana's radially inwardly extending spline originates from the inner peripheral surface of wear rim (24) that does not form an adjacent radially outwardly extending spline.

Claims 13, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kamada, et al (US 2004/0142783). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kamada, et al discloses a bicycle sprocket 200 having lateral projections or splines 224. According to the representation of Fig. 3 at page 5 of the office action, element (A) is a radially inwardly extending spline, and element (C) is a radially outwardly extending spline. The root portion of radially inwardly extending spline (A) is designated by element (H), and the radially inner portion of radially inwardly extending spline (A) is designated by element (J). However, as shown by the continuous circle at the end of the lead line for reference number (204) in Fig. 3(A), which illustrates element (H), the root portion (element (H)) does not have a side wall that faces in the rotational direction as recited in claim 13. Thus, Kamada, et al neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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